



21 July 2010

**TO: ALL LICENCED MEAT EXPORTERS
MANAGEMENTS OF ALL AUS-MEAT ACCREDITED ENTERPRISES**

ATTENTION: Officer in Charge AUS-MEAT Standards:

AUS-MEAT LANGUAGE CHANGES – BEEF ALTERNATIVE CATEGORIES
DEFERRAL OF THE INTRODUCTION OF SLAUGHTER FLOOR MATURITY ASSESSMENT

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Advice is to provide further supplementary information regarding the Approved procedures for Maturity Assessment when determining Maximum Maturity Scores for the inclusion of Four (4) Teeth Cattle into the Young Beef *YG* and Young Steer *YGS* Alternative Categories (as detailed in AUS-MEAT Advice 02/10).

BACKGROUND

At its last meeting, the Australian Meat Industry Language and Standards Committee gave consideration to the inclusion within the AUS-MEAT Language and the National Accreditation Standards of an Approved Assessment Method for determining the Maturity Score of hot carcasses on Beef Slaughter floors. Whilst an assessment process has been undertaken at some Enterprises for the purposes of MSA by persons holding a Certificate of Proficiency for MSA Slaughter floor Grading, this process does not currently include components regarding pre-conditions, carcass presentation, assessor qualifications and competency, and Quality Management requirements for the purposes of the AUS-MEAT Language.

Deferral of the Introduction of Slaughter floor Maturity Assessment

In considering the introduction of an Approved Assessment Method, the Committee has determined that the implementation of Advice 02/10 as it applies to the assessment of Maturity of hot carcasses on the Slaughter floor will be deferred at this time pending the finalisation and validation of appropriate Standards to be incorporated into the AUS-MEAT Language and National Accreditation Standards.

This decision does not affect the requirements of Advice 02/10 as it applies to the assessment of Maturity of chilled carcasses by qualified operators in accordance with the AUS-MEAT Chiller Assessment Language.

Date of Implementation

This change is effective immediately upon receipt of this Advice.

Further enquiries on the Beef Language Category changes contact AUS-MEAT Limited Ph (07) 3361 9200, Fax (07) 3361 9222, e-mail ausmeat@ausmeat.com.au.

Denis Brett

**GENERAL MANAGER
STANDARDS & TECHNICAL OPERATIONS**

Previous References: Advice 02/10